

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SS-15

SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 HEW-06 HUD-02 NASA-02 OIC-02

AGRE-00 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-11 SMI-01 /196 W

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R 130758Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7418

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1402

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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DEPARTMENT PASS CEQ, NOAA, AND EPA, HEW, COMMERCE, HUD, INTERIOR,
NASA

LONDON FOR IMCO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, UNEP

SUBJ: SIXTH SESSION - UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL - FIRST WEEK SUMMARY

REF NAIROBI 7183 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY - SIXTH SESSION UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

OPENED MAY 9 WITH 479 MEMBER STATES AND 32 OBSERVERS

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PRESENT. ISSUES RAISED BY EXDIR TOLBA IN WELCOMING

SPEECH INCLUDED KUWAIT MARINE POLLUTION CONVENTION AND

TRUST FUND, IUCN SECRETARIAT FUNCTION FOR ENDANGERED

SPECIES CONVENTION, MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION TRUST FUND

AND PROPOSAL TO UTILIZE NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY.

MAJOR THEMES IN MEMBER STATE PLENARY STATEMENTS INCLUDED

TOXIC CHEMICAL CONTROL, PROTECTION MARINE ENVIRONMENT,

CONCERN ABOUT SAFE DRINKING WATER, DESERTIFICATION, TROPICAL
DEFORESTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. AT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II WHICH
BEGAN ITS WORK MAY 10, NORWAY, CANADA, UK AND US PROPOSED
REVISION DOCUMENTATION TO UNDERScore NECESSITY OF BROADENING
BASE OF CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENT FUND. END SUMMARY

2. SIXTH SESSION UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL OPENED MAY 9 WITH
47 MEMBER STATES AND 32 OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS
PRESENT. MIGUEL VELARDE (SPAIN) ELECTED PRESIDENT; ZHIVKO
ZHIVKOV (BULGARIA) 1ST VICE PRESIDENT; SHAFIQ AHMAD
(PAKISTAN) 2ND VP; FERNANDO RICCIARDI (ARGENTINA)
3RD VP; AND HEDIA BACCAR (TUNISIA) RAPPORTEUR-GENERAL.

3. UNEP EXDIR TOLBA, IN WELCOMING STATEMENT, REVIEWED
SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PAST YEAR,
INCLUDING DESERTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
CONFERENCES, WORK OF EXPERTS ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES
AND EXPERTS ON LEGAL ASPECTS OF WEATHER MODIFICATION,
ENTRY INTO FORCE OF MEDITERRANEAN CONVENTION, AND AGREEMENT
AT KUWAIT ON TWO ANTI-POLLUTION TREATIES AND ACTION PLAN FOR
ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DEVELOPMENT OF GULF REGION. HE EXPRESSED
QUOTE CONFIDENCE UNQUOTE THAT GC WOULD SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF
LATTER AGREEMENT, WHICH INVOLVES A \$5.8 MILLION TRUST FUND ESTAB-
LISHED BY COUNTRIES IN GULF REGION AND A UNEP COMMITMENT OF \$500
THOUSAND OVER NEXT TWO YEARS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERIM SECRETAR-
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IAT. HE EXPRESSED DISSAPPOINTMENT OVER FAILURE MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LAND-BASED POLLUTION PROTOCOL AND
OVER LOW USAGE RATE OF INTERNATIONAL REFERRAL SERVICE AND UNEP'S
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLEARING HOUSE.

4. LATER IN SPEECH HE MENTIONED REQUEST OF MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES TO SET UP TRUST FUND WITH UNEP CONTRIBUTING
50 PERCENT AND REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR IUCN
AS SECRETARIAT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION.
HE THEN RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR UNEP'S
CATALYTIC ROLE AND ASKED GC TO TELL HIM WHERE MONEY WAS
TO COME FROM.

5. ON SUBJECT ENVIRONMENT FUND, TOBLA RECALLED \$150 MILLION
TARGET FOR 1978-81 MEDIUM TERM PLAN PERIOD AND NOTED
LEVEL PREDICATED UPON NEW CONTRIBUTIONS, INCREASED CONTRIBU-
TIONS FROM THOSE WHOSE PREVIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS RELATIVELY
MODEST, AND SUSTAINED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HIGH-LEVEL DONORS.
INFORMED DELEGATES OF QUOTE BREAKTHROUGH UNQUOTE ON NON-
COVERTIBLE CURRENCY PROBLEM WITH AGREEMENT ON 8. PROJECTS
INVOLVING ROUBLE EQUIPVALENT OF \$3.6 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS. EXDIR
ALSO CITED GA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT,

NOTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DANGERS OF WARFARE AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF DISARMAMENT. HE ANNOUNCED AWARD OF 1978 PAHLAVI ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE JOINTLY TO PROFESSOR MOHAMMED EL-KASSAS OF EGYPT AND DR. THOR HEYERDAHL OF NORWAY.

6. MAJOR THEMES IN PLENARY STATEMENTS INCLUDED TOXIC CHEMICAL CONTROL, PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, SUPPORT OF EARTHWATCH CONCEPT, IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL SEAS' PROGRAMS, ISSUES OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. CONCERN ABOUT SAFE DRINKING WATER, DESERTIFICATION, TROPICAL DEFORESTATION, CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WERE VOICED BY A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES. MANY SPEAK OF IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO NEW HABITAT CENTRE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN NAIROBI.
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7. WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT STOCKHOLM TOXICS' MEETING NORWEGIAN MINISTER BRUNDTLAND GAVE EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF TOXIC CHEMICAL CONTROL. HER STATEMENT EXPRESSED HOPE FOR THE ROLE OF IRPTC IN THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION ON TOXICS.

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8. REFERRING TO RECENT AMOCO CADIZ SPILL, FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED THANKS TO THOSE NATIONS WHICH ARE ASSISTING IN CLEAN-UP AND ECOLOGICAL STUDIES. A FIVE PAGE "AMOCO- CADIZ ACCIDENT" PAPER WAS DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATION MEMBERS; THE PAPER SUMMARIZES THE ACCIDENT AND REVIEWS FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR AVOIDING FUTURE INCIDENTS.

9. SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EXPRESSED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR UNEP'S PARTICIPATION IN EFFORTS TO STUDY AND CONTROL LONG-RANGE TRANSPORT OF POLLUTION AND PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER. EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MENTIONED DISARMAMENT ISSUES INCLUDING PROPOSED NEUTRON BOMB BAN AS QUOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNQUOTE MEASURE.

10. AUSTRALIA CALLED FOR TIME TABLE FOR REDUCED UNEP SUPPORT TO ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION, A THEME REITERATED UNCLASSIFIED

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AT MAY 12 OPENING OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEE I BY CANADA AND UK. USSR WITHDREW SUPPORT FOR GC APPROVAL PROJECTS. JAPAN ANNOUNCED INCREASE IN UNEP FUND CONTRIBUTION TO \$3 MILLION FOR 1978. CANADA ANNOUNCED \$1 MILLION FOR 1978, SWEDEN SAID IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE SAME PERCENTAGE TO NEW FUND TARGET AS IT HAD TO LOWER PREVIOUS TOTAL, AUSTRIA RAISED CONTRIBUTION TO \$300 THOUSAND AND POLAND ANNOUNCED 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTION FOR 1978-83.

11. IN FIRST FOUR SESSIONS, MAY 10 AND 11, SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMBASSADOR RICCIARDI OF ARGENTINA, COMPLETED GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEMS 10 (A) AND (B). MOST DISCUSSION OF GC 6/13 CONCERNED PROPOSAL TO TOP UP REVOLVING FUND (INFORMATION) TO \$200,000 LEVEL. AED OLTMANNS EXPLAINED THAT A NUMBER OF PROMISING (I.E., POTENTIALLY REVENUE - PRODUCING) PROJECTS WERE IN PROSPECT, PRIMARILY IN TV AND MULTI-MEDIA FIELD. NOTING THAT PROMISING FILM ON MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM HAD HAD TO BE PASSED UP DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT FUND, OLTMANNS FELT IT PRUDENT TO RAISE LEVEL TO PROPOSED \$200,000 LEVEL. ONLY FRENCH SEEMED AT ALL DISTURBED, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO OPPOSE. OLTMANNS EMPHASIZED THIS APPLIED ONLY TO COMING YEAR. FUND WILL HOPEFULLY BECOME SELF-SUSTAINING, BUT IF FURTHER FUNDS REQUIRED FOR 1980, GC VII WILL HAVE TO APPROVE.

12. SPAIN AND ITALY BOTH OBJECTED TO PARAGRAPH 16 (C) OF GC 6/13 AS PRE-JUDGING FUTURE SUPPORT OF MEDITERRANEAN

PROGRAM. CHAIRMAN PROMISED THEIR COMMENTS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT, BUT NOTED THAT COMMITTEE HAD NO POWER TO STRIKE PARAGRAPH FROM DOCUMENT. NORWAY, SUPPORTED BY CANADA, UK AND US, PROPOSED THAT PARA 24(B) BE STRENGTHENED TO MAKE CLEAR NECESSITY FOR BROADENING BASE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND FOR ENSURING THAT THOSE ALREADY CONTRIBUTING DO SO AT UNCLASSIFIED

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LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR ABILITY. US NOTED THIS NECESSARY NOT ONLY TO ENABLE UNEP OPERATE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SUSTAINING FUND IN PAST WOULD HAVE INCENTIVE TO CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT.

13. MANY DELEGATIONS WELCOMED PROGRESS MADE IN EVALUATION, AND NOTED IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING METHODOLOGY APPROPRIATE TO UNEP'S PROJECTS. OLTMANNS RECEPTIVE TO CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR INDEPENDENT EVALUATION UNIT (FROM EXISTING FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES) AND ALSO POSSIBLE LIAISON WITH JIU. QUESTION OF INTERNAL VS. EXTERNAL EVALUATION CAME IN FOR SOME DISCUSSION, WITH US AND MOST WEO'S PRESSING STRONGLY FOR LATTER. KENYA PROPOSED THAT CONSULTANTS SHOULD PREFERABLY COME FROM PROJECT REGION. WEO'S WORKING ON DRAFT DECISION ON GC 6/14 WHICH WOULD GO INTO SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL THAN PARA 19, NOTING REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHING METHODOLOGY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EVALUATION UNIT AND NEED FOR EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS FOR IN-DEPTH PROJECT EVALUATION. (FYI - DISCUSSIONS WITH WEO'S AND SECRETARIAT REVEALED NO SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL TO SHIFT EMPHASIS DURING NEXT YEAR TO PROGRAM EVALUATION. END FYI) LE MELLE

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